

Division of Health Sciences

David M. Brady, ND, DC, CCN, DACBN
Vice Provost, Health Sciences



March 12, 2013

Connecticut Public Health Committee

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing to express the University's opposition to the currently proposed Bill No. 993. I had submitted testimony last year strongly supporting Bill no. 5541, which proposed an Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner (ADHP). In this year's legislation, the ADHP portion of the bill has been completely eliminated and the bill being put forth is No. 993, which proposes an Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA). While the University does not oppose the EFDA position, we do oppose Bill 993, as it stands. We would be in favor of Bill 993 if the ADHP legislation were added back, as it stood last year.

I put forth this opposition and advocacy for inclusion of an Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner as the Vice Provost for Health Sciences of the University of Bridgeport; a university housing the oldest academic program in dental hygiene in the country, the Fones School of Dental Hygiene. The Fones program provides training for dental hygiene professionals at the associate, baccalaureate and masters levels with accreditation by the American Dental Association and the federally recognized regional accrediting body New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), as well as the Office of Higher Education of the State of Connecticut. I am very aware of the level of training and the dedication to dental health exhibited by Connecticut dental hygienists and I believe they serve a critical role in promoting oral and overall systemic health. Providing the dental hygiene profession with an advanced practice category will help more Connecticut residents, especially those at risk and most in need of dental services, to access the care they need. It will also facilitate the UB Clinics to deliver a more expanded pallet of oral health care options to those we serve in our public clinic system, most of which are uninsured, underinsured, and of very limited financial means.

Please learn more at <http://www.bridgeport.edu/academics/fonesschool> and <http://www.bridgeport.edu/ubclinics>

It is important to stress that that the purpose of this mid-level Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner is not to enable the opening of his/her own practice. It is specifically to be employed in public health settings and group clinics where they would work in collaboration with a DDS and help expand access to care.

Division of Health Sciences

David M. Brady, ND, DC, CCN, DACBN

Vice Provost, Health Sciences

In addition to my role at the University, I am also a naturopathic physician in private practice in Trumbull, CT. I am all too aware of the need to change the emphasis in our health care system from an expensive reactionary approach to a more preventive and proactive model of wellness. With more and more data showing firm linkage between oral health and overall health it is imperative that we have more providers available to advocate this paradigm. Advanced practice dental hygienists will be an integral part of this process.

The State of Connecticut has a long history of upholding consumer choice and rights and access to health care. Please maintain this continued tradition and reject any attempt by any entity wishing to reject this important initiative out of selfish economic issues and professional turf protection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DMB, ND', with a stylized, cursive script.

David M. Brady, ND, DC, CCN, DACBN

Vice Provost, Health Sciences

Director, Human Nutrition Institute

Associate Professor of Clinical Sciences

University of Bridgeport